Department of Health, Education, and Welfare - Public Health Service

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

NEWS

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THE RAINS CAME

Throughout December the rains in the Washington area were twice the normal amount, and with the rains came water in the basement stacks of the National Library of Medicine. A few shelves of books in the most dangerously threatened area were moved; unfortunately, all cannot be moved. Lacking space, odd alternatives such as coating the books with an anti-mildew mixture of copper sulfate have been considered, especially for those books in the dampest sections of the stacks.

Early last month the Executive Officer of NLM and the Superintendent of the Mall Group of buildings, Public Buildings Service, made an extensive inspection of the situation; as a result of their survey, several actions will be taken. An attempt will be made to waterproof the interior west wall of the basement stacks, and a concrete splash pan will be constructed on the exterior of the wall to eliminate seepage; all interior downspouts remaining in the building will be capped and replaced with exterior downspouts. The interior west wall of the upper stack area will be replastered and repainted. In addition, some gratings in the main stack will be replaced, and exterminators will turn their attention from the plague of rats, now somewhat abated, to incursions being made by cockroaches and silverfish.

NOTEWORTHY ACQUISITIONS

The National Library of Medicine has acquired the 1591 Junta edition of Mercuriale's De morbis mulieribus, printed in Venice. Another recent arrival is the oration Pro medicorum virtute adversus fortunam medicam, delivered by Carlo Francesco Cogrossi on January 19, 1721, as he began teaching at the University of Padua. From the Medical Institute of Kaunas, Lithuanian SSR, came Works of the Medical Institute (3 v.); 17 volumes were received from the M. E. Saltijkov-Shchedrin State Public Library in Leningrad; 165 catalog cards came from the State Central Scientific Medical Library in Moscow, making a total of 1,783 for the year, for which NLM has exchanged 1,964 of its own catalog cards.

BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 1959

The Budget of the United States Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1959 was published on January 13. It contains over 1,000 pages, weighs about four pounds, and is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents at $5.50 per copy (one dollar less than last year's price). The budget of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare begins on p. 561; the budget of the Public Health Service begins on p. 583, and the budget of the National Library of Medicine is found on p. 599 and p. 601. The major portion of the NLM budget statement is reprinted below.

OPERATIONS, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

[National Library of Medicine:] For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary to carry out the National Library of Medicine Act [(70 Stat. 960), $1,450,000] (42 U.S.C. 275), $1,415,000. (Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Appropriation Act, 1958.)

Appropriated 1958, **$1,450,000** Estimate 1959, **$1,415,000**

Program and Financing

	1957 actual	1958 estimate	1959 estimate
Program by activities:			
Library operations (total obligations)	$1,298,282	$1,450,000	$1,415,000
Financing:			
Comparative transfers from (−) other accounts	−310,129		
Unobligated balance no longer available	16,485		
New obligational authority	1,004,638	1,450,000	1,415,000
New obligational authority:			
Appropriation		$1,450,000	$1,415,000
Transferred (70 Stat. 962) from—			
"Operation and maintenance," Department of the Army	$995,250		
"Military personnel," Department of the Army	9,388		
Appropriation (adjusted)	1,004,638	1,450,000	1,415,000

The National Library of Medicine, previously the Armed Forces Medical Library, assists the advancement of science through the collection and exchange of medical and other scientific information. In addition to cataloging and indexing, the library also publishes bibliographical guides and provides reference and research assistance.

Object Classification

	1957 actual	1958 estimate	1959 estimate
Total number of permanent positions	222	225	224
Full-time equivalent of all other positions	1	1	1
Average number of all employees	210	218	217
Number of employees at end of year	217	222	221
Average GS grade and salary	6.0 $4,688	6.5 $4,892	6.5 $4,866
Average salary of ungraded positions	$3,801	$3,849	$3,849
01 Personal services:			
Permanent positions	$954,236	$1,052,540	$1,041,740
Positions other than permanent	3,589	4,000	4,000
Other personal services	30,117	13,460	11,860
Total personal services	987,942	1,070,000	1,057,600
02 Travel	9,130	9,800	9,800
03 Transportation of things	315	400	400
04 Communication services	7,498	11,100	11,100
05 Rents and utility services	10,480	23,000	23,000
06 Printing and reproduction	94,567	111,000	91,000
07 Other contractual services	31,636	18,100	18,100
08 Supplies and materials	51,697	49,500	49,500
09 Equipment	103,158	98,800	94,200
11 Grants, subsidies, and contributions		56,300	58,300
13 Refunds, awards, and indemnities	220		
15 Taxes and assessments	1,639	2,000	2,000
Total obligations	1,298,282	1,450,000	1,415,000

Construction of Library Facilities

Program and Financing

	1957 actual	1958 estimate	1959 estimate
Program by activities:			
Design, supervision, etc. (total obligations)	$331,834	$18,166	
Financing:			
Unobligated balance no longer available	18,166		
New obligational authority	350,000	18,166	
New obligational authority:			
Appropriation	$350,000		
Reappropriation		$18,166	

Funds were provided in 1957 for the planning of a building for the National Library of Medicine. The board of regents has selected a site at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. Plans and specifications are expected to be completed by the end of 1958; however, construction of this building is being temporarily deferred.

EXHIBIT

The February-March exhibit in the National Library of Medicine deals with Richard Bright, 1789-1858, and his contributions to the study of renal diseases. It includes a display of some of Bright's medical writings and examples of his talents as an artist and as a writer in the field of travel, together with pictures and sketches of some of his famous colleagues at Guy's Hospital in London. Recent developments in the methods of treatment of renal disease such as the kidney transplantation operation and use of the artificial kidney are presented.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUTSIDE PUBLICATIONS

The National Library of Medicine reports about 800 new titles or changes of titles each year to New Serial Titles (published by the Library of Congress), and during 1957 reported about the same number to Vital Notes (published by the Medical Library Association). During December 1957 data on 1,126 Russian articles was sent to the Library of Congress for inclusion in LC's Monthly List of Russian Accessions, and on 418 articles for its East European Accessions List; the total is 50% higher than the monthly average during Fiscal Year 1957. Catalog cards for 308 Russian titles were forwarded to LC's Cyrillic Union Catalog during November and December, and cards for 653 microfilmed titles were forwarded to the Union List of Microfilms in December.

WEEDING

Weeding of the collections of the National Library of Medicine to remove out-of-scope materials continues at a rapid rate; almost 300 volumes have been discarded each month for the past six months. This activity, necessary in any event, is particularly pressing during a period when stack space is at a premium.

"Non-book" materials also are weeded. Recently some 500 prints, photographs, and engravings held in the Art Section, depicting such various subjects as Rumanian refugees in World War II, scenic views of the Philippines, Indian Training School activities, and animal skin tumors, were transferred to more appropriate custodians such as the Army Signal Corps, the District of Columbia Public Library, the Department of Interior Library, and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

Use of funds for printing this publication approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, March 22, 1957

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